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Miss Odencrantz has given us a sympathetic and scholarly study. Such studies must always present a somewhat blurred picture of the life they undertake to portray. We have the interview, the visit to home and work place, the questionnaire, a few budgets, and a book, while the women go on working with feathers, candy, crackers, corsets, petticoats, cigars, boxes, stationery, cereals, olives, and what not, with an overpowering weariness and unutterably barren lives. But the book is not futile if it leads to even a limited understanding of the problems of some foreign individuals enmeshed in our industrial system.

ANNIE MARION MACLEAN

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*The Social Case History: Its Construction and Content.* By ADA ELIOT SHEFFIELD, Director, Boston Bureau on Illegitimacy. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1920. Pp. 227. \$1.00.

The author proposes that the social-case history include only those facts which make effective treatment possible. Successful use of this test, she believes, involves the development of larger and clearer concepts. Many devices are suggested for accomplishing these aims.

This book is the result of much practical experience and will appeal to those who are interested in higher standards of record-keeping, though administrators will probably think that confusion will result from any attempt to make everyday use of larger concepts not previously clearly defined. Further, treatment as a measure of the record-value of a social fact is a useful yardstick (1) when workers are uniformly trained to use and provided with adequate standardized administrative devices; (2) when the appearance of new methods of treatment need not be anticipated during the life of the record; and (3) when social-service policies have been generally agreed upon. Until these conditions obtain, if treatment-value be the test of the relative significance of social facts to the recorder, records must be re-written with changes in the personnel, policy, or procedure of the agency and with every advance in the social sciences.

ERLE FISKE YOUNG

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*Housing and the Housing Problem.* By CAROL ARONOVICI. Chicago: McClurg & Co., 1920. Pp. 163. \$.75.

This is a brief statement of the principles involved in a housing program. An attempt is made to point out the fundamental social

and economic conditions connected with the housing problem. The housing situation will not be materially relieved by philanthropic building projects, such as the well-known Port Sunlight and Octavia Hill enterprises. The problem must be approached by a careful study of the economic factors involved, such as costs of land, labor, and materials. Up to date our attention has been largely centered upon the question of sanitation, and to this end we have framed a great deal of housing legislation, much of which is purely arbitrary and complicates the economic side of the question. The author shows that housing is essentially a community problem. The forces at work in our laissez faire system of community life make it increasingly difficult for the individual family to build or own its own home, also make it a hazardous undertaking for private capital to build homes for rent. The community must look upon the housing of its citizens as an essential part of its corporate existence and safeguard the residential areas by a scientific system of community-planning.

Laymen in the field of housing reform will find this a brief but comprehensive statement of the housing problem from the pen of a well-known authority in the field. Unfortunately the author is not always clear in his statements. Sentences are frequently long and involved; sometimes they are meaningless, as for example the following: "Going a little further into the statistics of land we find that one-third of the population of the country. Going a little further into the statistics of the total area of these cities is only 0.123 of the total area of the United States" (pp. 79-80).

The book contains no index, but a selected bibliography is appended.

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*Organization of Public Health Nursing.* By ANNIE M. BRAINARD.  
New York: The Macmillan Co., 1919. Pp. 144. \$1.35.

This is a handbook designed especially for the use of the public-health nurse. It discusses the fundamental principles of the organization of public-health nursing as gleaned from experience in many different types of communities. Among the points emphasized are: (1) the need of efficient organization to support the work of the public-health nurse; (2) ways and means of financing the work in small communities; (3) methods of selecting supervisory committees and boards of directors in order to obtain the most efficient type of local representation and team